CASE STUDIES ON COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY-ENGAGED GRANTMAKING
2016 Delivering on the Dream (DOTD)
Collaborative Sites

Statewide
Major Metros

- Arkansas
  - California
    - San Francisco Bay Area
    - Los Angeles County
    - Orange County
  - Colorado
  - Connecticut
  - Illinois
  - Missouri
    - Kansas City
- New York Metro
  - North Carolina
  - Oregon
  - Pennsylvania
  - Tennessee
  - Texas
    - Greater Houston
    - Statewide
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas

CA IL AR TX NY OR TN 2

CA

OR

CO

IL

MO

TX

AR

NY

PA

CT

NC
REAL ESTATE AND PHILANTHROPY
Tale of Two Sites

Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

PA is Ready!
Houston Context

- Timing of issues
- Clear need established by data and environmental scan
- Shared city-wide
- Past experience with funder-only collaboratives
- Antagonistic nonprofit environment
**Houston Set Up**

- Houston Endowment and Simmons Foundation leadership; pooled funding of 2 foundations
- HILSC - collaborative of 40+ organizations
  - funders, legal service providers, grassroots community nonprofits, law schools, attorneys
- Executive committee oversees operations & implementation
- Consultant to support development of city-wide decision and community plan
- Goals:
  - Build legal capacity
  - Coordination and collaboration to strengthen safety net
  - Communications plan to reach community
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

Strategies in sync!

- Data-driven decisions
- Establish and align community vision
- Neutral facilitator & coordinator
- Manage relationships
- Engage and educate external reviewers
- Provide lots of technical assistance!
Houston Best Practices

- Start meetings with city-level goal/vision:
  - Every low income Houstonian has access to legal services
- Right consultant and facilitator
- Keep the target beneficiaries in mind
- Big tent attitude
- Relationships matter!
  - facilitator/coordinator always follows up
- Funder participation and engagement is key
PENNSYLVANIA CONTEXT

- Timing of issues
- Clear community need backed by research
- PA Immigrant & Citizenship Coalition and The Philadelphia Foundation, strong history
- Established group of providers in major cities with track record of success
PA is Ready! - collaborative of 40+ organizations
- legal service providers, funders, grassroots community nonprofits, law schools, attorneys.

Funder learning collaborative of 7 foundations

Goals:
- Build statewide capacity to provide immigration assistance
- Prevent the exploitation of immigrants through immigration (or “notario”) fraud
- Screen and enroll as many eligible immigrants as possible
- Build immigrant leadership and organizing capacity to engage in local, state and federal immigrant rights campaigns
- Reach the diverse immigrant communities eligible for DACA and DAPA
PA IS READY!

Strategies in sync!

- Data-driven decisions
- Establish and align community vision
- Neutral coordinator
- Collective impact for nonprofits and funders
- Manage relationships
- Provide lots of technical assistance!
Pennsylvania Lessons Learned

- Challenges to statewide work
  - geographic, ethnic, capacity, and technological equity and representation

- Forming/Storming –
  - Nonprofit coalition met frequently to decide service delivery models and technical aspects.
  - Need more relationship building at beginning to establish ground rules for working together
  - Need to discuss community perceptions of power based on who receives funding and possible community relations issues
  - Funder balancing act to guide without taking the lead
Pennsylvania Best Practices

- Radical transparency important with coalition
- Grantmaking review benefits from funders and those “on the ground”
- Pairing providers strengthens grants and learning
- Funders should be open, willing to share power, step back/forward!
  - Projects that try to empower marginalized communities require experimentation and risk
  - Capacity building orientation for funders and nonprofits
  - Funder briefings with nonprofit partners - builds relationships; deepen cross-sector and issue understanding for all
TAKEAWAYS?

- Data establishes need, capacity, and opportunity; share it broadly
- Values and vision-based conversations internally at foundations and with community members
- Sensitivity to local relationships and funding dynamics
- Create big tent attitude
- External, neutral party to facilitate, coordinate, provide TA
- Explicit discussions about working together, power sharing, radical transparency
- Long-term commitment on all parts
YOUR QUESTIONS & THOUGHTS
SILLERMAN CENTER STUDIES

Examples of community-engaged and immigrant-integration grantmaking
  • Headwaters Foundation
  • Unbound Philanthropy
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FUNDERS:

- Resource documents:
  - GCIR Funders Guide: Grants and Immigration Status
  - GCIR Immigrant Integration Toolkit (available online)
- Access GCIR’s online publications, join upcoming webinars
- Get connected to funding peers in other states about grantmaking strategies
- For more information, contact Althea Gonzalez, Project Manager, althea@gcir.org
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- How do the case studies relate to your context?
- What ideas were most energizing?
- How could they be applied locally?
- What would it take to implement?